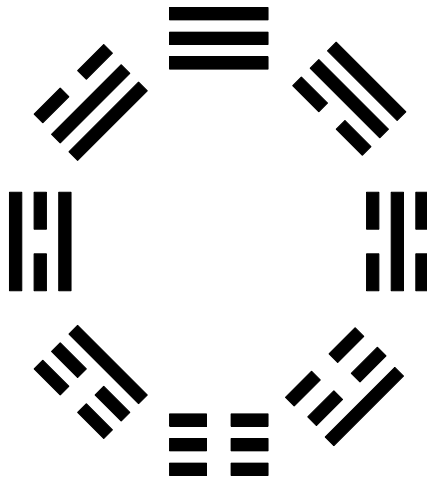


# THE EVERYDAY ORACLE OF CHANGES



THE EVERYDAY ORACLE OF CHANGES



STEVEN J KOLLMANSBERGER

[WWW.ORACLEOFCHANGES.COM](http://WWW.ORACLEOFCHANGES.COM)

The Everyday Oracle of Changes

Second Edition

Copyright © 2006 Steven J Kollmansberger

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.5 License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/> or send a letter to:

Creative Commons  
543 Howard Street, 5th Floor  
San Francisco, California, 94105, USA.

Printed by Lulu.com in the USA

Typeset in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X by the author

Visit the Everyday Oracle of Changes on the web at

<http://www.OracleOfChanges.com>

*For Eric*



# CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>To Ask, To Act</b>	<b>1</b>
1	The Question . . . . .	2
2	The Answer . . . . .	3
3	The Interpretation . . . . .	8
4	Two Example Dialogues . . . . .	10
<b>2</b>	<b>The Ancient Root</b>	<b>15</b>
1	Open and Closed . . . . .	15
2	The Four Elements . . . . .	16
3	The Eight Ways . . . . .	18
4	The Sixty-Four Hexagrams . . . . .	22
<b>3</b>	<b>The Hexagrams</b>	<b>25</b>
1	Energy . . . . .	28
2	Devotion . . . . .	29
3	Passing Through Chaos . . . . .	30
4	Naïve Uncertainty . . . . .	31
5	Waiting for a Breakthrough . . . . .	32
6	Conflict . . . . .	33
7	Hidden Potential . . . . .	34
8	Coming and Staying Together . . . . .	35
9	Gentle Influence . . . . .	36
10	Mixing Weak and Strong . . . . .	37
11	Harmony . . . . .	38
12	Decline . . . . .	39
13	Fellowship . . . . .	40
14	Wealth . . . . .	41
15	Modesty . . . . .	42
16	Enthusiasm . . . . .	43
17	Leading Servant . . . . .	44
18	Rebuilding . . . . .	45
19	Progress . . . . .	46
20	Attention . . . . .	47
21	Cutting through Obstacles . . . . .	48
22	Decorating . . . . .	49
23	Collapse . . . . .	50
24	Coming Around . . . . .	51
25	Natural Truth . . . . .	52
26	Holding Firm . . . . .	53

27	Nurturing . . . . .	54
28	Excess . . . . .	55
29	Many Difficulties . . . . .	56
30	Quiet Strength . . . . .	57
31	Relationships . . . . .	58
32	Dedication . . . . .	59
33	Retreat . . . . .	60
34	Strength and Justice . . . . .	61
35	Accomplishment . . . . .	62
36	Fall from Grace . . . . .	63
37	The Family . . . . .	64
38	Divergence . . . . .	65
39	Obstacles . . . . .	66
40	Resolution . . . . .	67
41	Scarcity . . . . .	68
42	Growth . . . . .	69
43	Breakthrough . . . . .	70
44	Ulterior Motives . . . . .	71
45	Gathering Together . . . . .	72
46	Gaining Influence . . . . .	73
47	Adversity . . . . .	74
48	Foundations . . . . .	75
49	Revolution . . . . .	76
50	Plenty . . . . .	77
51	Shock . . . . .	78
52	Stillness . . . . .	79
53	Gradual Progress . . . . .	80
54	Tactful Reserve . . . . .	81
55	Peak . . . . .	82
56	Separation . . . . .	83
57	Gentle Action . . . . .	84
58	Joy . . . . .	85
59	Dissolving Selfishness . . . . .	86
60	Boundaries . . . . .	87
61	Consideration . . . . .	88
62	Little Things . . . . .	89
63	Completion . . . . .	90
64	Opportunity . . . . .	91



## PREFACE

The Oracle of Changes (*I Ching*) has brought insight and vision to many people around the world throughout the past three thousand years. The original texts are rich with allusions to historical Chinese culture. However, many of us westerners do not have that cultural reference and so the meaning of certain texts may be lost upon us.

The fifth moving line of the forty-fourth hexagram in the classic Wilhelm translation reads:

*A melon covered with willow leaves.  
Hidden lines.  
Then it drops down to one from heaven.*

An ordinary user of the Oracle, unschooled in the meaning of melons covered in willow leaves, would probably be left scratching their head. Here the Oracle has spoken; yet its words are muffled by the difference in cultural and time.

I wrote this text to offer a clear and straightforward paraphrase of the Wilhelm translation and accompanying commentary. My approach is not intended to show every possible facet or interpretation. Rather, I try for a brief rendering suitable for casual and common use of the Oracle.

For beginners, I have included a detailed chapter describing precisely how to ask the Oracle a question, receive, and interpret the answer. I also present a chapter discussing the history and construction of the Oracle as well as interesting but non-critical topics such as trigrams and line probabilities.

This text is intended to be a starting point, not a final authority. There is much more to each hexagram and line than I have presented here, and a truly in-depth reading will take advantage of the insight available through the imagery of the original text and scholarly analysis thereof, as well as the arrangement and sequence of the hexagrams and their components.

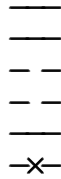
Regardless of your experience with the Oracle, I hope you find this text interesting and useful.



## ORACLE'S WELCOME

After completing this text, I asked the Oracle:

*What would you, the Oracle, like to say to my readers?*



The ability to dialogue with the Oracle is within you already; you need only to awaken it. Do not worry about what people will think about you consulting the Oracle — it is not their opinion that matters. If you are willing to give the Oracle a real try, then you will find that the Oracle can help you in many ways.

Do not become fixed on a certain text (including this one) or method of consulting the Oracle. As time goes on, be ready to grow in your use, and consider more sources to increase your understanding of what the Oracle is saying.

The Oracle's advice is for your benefit, your growth. The Oracle speaks to help you help yourself, and others. Using the Oracle is a journey through time and your own personal development. Let the Oracle help.

The Oracle always has more to say, more insight to hear, and more depth to be reached. There is no summit of knowledge which represents everything; there is no time when you know so much that the Oracle is no longer of value.



# 1 TO ASK, TO ACT

The Oracle of Changes (*I Ching*, pronounced Yi Jing, literally translates as “Classic of Changes”) has provided answers and guidance to people around the world for thousands of years. The Oracle is unique in its approach — rather than a simple yes or no, or an indication of a predetermined future, the Oracle involves the free will of the petitioner. The future, according to the Oracle, is not fixed. It remains within your power to change it and shape it. The Oracle can help you decide what actions to take and which choices to make.

The word Oracle derives from the Latin *orare*, meaning “to speak”. The Oracle speaks; it provides advice and an indication of the future which may not yet be visible to us. The future shown by the Oracle is not set in stone, not guaranteed; it is instead a probable outcome based on the decisions you are asking the Oracle about.

The foundation of the Oracle, described in more detail in Chapter 2, is the balance of light and dark, rising and fall, good fortune and ill. These are seen not as opposites, but as complements that go hand in hand. In every situation there is a mix of various forces, and few situations are static. The Oracle contains no simple “yes” or “no” answers, merely varying balances representing the deep dynamics present in all human situations. For truly, what situation can be fully answered with simply “yes” or “no”?

The Oracle provides no refuge, no hiding place from poor choices or ignorance. The Oracle instead provides a light to shine into the recesses of your heart. It will not take the reins nor live your life; the difficult decisions remain in your hands and will remain difficult. The Oracle merely offers advice; a glance into the present, past, and future to help you make your decisions.

A single dialogue with the Oracle has three parts: your question, the Oracle’s answer, and the interpretation. I will cover each part in this chapter.

# 1 The Question

Forming the question is the first and most important part of dialogue with the Oracle. The Oracle can answer questions regarding many topics, from important to trivial, from grand to mundane. However, there are some guidelines you should follow to ensure the best possible response.

Good questions ask the Oracle for advice, or what would happen if you followed a certain path. For example, “How should I approach my boss regarding a raise?” would be a good question. If you are not sure about the course of action, you can ask, “Should I approach my boss regarding a raise?” This question is similar, but does not presuppose that approaching the boss is a good idea. You can also ask what-if questions, such as “What can I expect if I go on the date with Jim?” In this case, the answer may implicitly include advice for or against such a course of action, or perhaps a particular way to handle it. Other good questions start with “What should I consider when...?” and “How can I resolve the issue with...?” The Oracle is good at answering questions regarding relationships (of all kinds) as well as questions concerning yourself. Remember that your choices are of central concern to the Oracle.

Try to avoid either-or questions. For example, “Should I accept the job with Acme or wait for an offer from Jones?” The answer to a question like this is often difficult to interpret. Instead, consider something like “What can I expect if I wait for an offer from Jones?” A positive response might suggest declining the Acme job. A negative response, on the other hand, clearly suggests going with Acme. A mixed response (and these are not uncommon) indicates that either choice is likely to work out in its own way. Again, ultimately only you can make the decision.

Avoid asking questions that do not relate to your choices. For example, asking “What does Jennifer feel about me?” is not really about your actions. You can not directly control how Jennifer feels. Instead, consider “How can I approach Jennifer in a way she will like?”

You can also ask general questions, such as “What should I keep in mind this week?” or “How should I approach today?” In some cases, it may be apparent what the answer is referring to, or sometimes not. In general, a more specific question will aid in interpretation of the answer.

However, almost any question will result in something relevant.

A final note about asking questions for others. I recommend you wait until you are very comfortable with the Oracle before you ask it questions on behalf of others. In addition, only do so if they have explicitly requested your advice. In this case, a question such as “How should I respond to Mary’s question about...?” or “For Mary: ...?” would be appropriate. I generally find the answers to be more relevant the more involved I am with the person. Thus, I try to avoid asking questions for people I do not know well.

Once you have chosen a question, write it down on the top of a blank sheet of paper. Writing the question is very important; otherwise you may become uncertain what you really asked when you later go to interpret the answer. You may build up the answer and interpretation on this sheet, which keeps the entire dialogue together in one place. Alternatively, some computer programs allow you to enter your question and record the answer and interpretation. Either way, I recommend keeping a journal of all the questions and answers you have received. It can be very instructive to look back and see where you have been.

## 2 The Answer

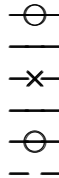
The next, and most solemn, step is to obtain the Oracle’s answer. For this step you should be prepared with the pieces needed depending on your method. There are many methods of asking the Oracle, some easier or more involved than others. At the end of this section, I describe two methods that I like the best.

Once you have chosen a method, sit with the pieces in a dim, quiet location. You should be alone, free from interruption, and able to concentrate fully on your question. Lay the paper in front of you, and have a pen ready. You can open with a prayer or meditation if you desire. Then ask (preferably out-loud, as it helps to focus) your question. Focus on the question and hear it in your mind. Select a piece or throw the coins (as described later) and write down the appropriate symbol. It will be one of four possible line symbols: closed —, open — —, moving closed  $\ominus$ , or moving open  $\rightarrow$ .

Using the same method, draw five additional lines (for a total of six) one at a time. Be sure to maintain a strong focus on the question for each line. You may pause between lines if this is helpful. The first line should appear at the *bottom* of the group, with each subsequent line placed on top of the current lines. In this way, the last line to be drawn appears on the top. This ordering (bottom to top) is very important, and is opposite of the usual way (top to bottom) that westerners write and think.

These six lines constitute the *base hexagram* from which the answer will be derived. In general, any sequence of six of the line symbols from bottom to top is called a hexagram. Once you have written the six lines, the Oracle has finished speaking. You can thank the Oracle, say a prayer or meditation, and then you are finished receiving the answer. The Oracle's answer, however, is not immediately ready to be interpreted. First, you will need to translate the base hexagram into the four hexagrams of the answer: near, far, nuclear, and complementary.

The meaning associated with each of these hexagrams will be explained in detail in the interpretation section. These four hexagrams consist only of non-moving lines (closed — and open --). First, look at your base hexagram. If, for example, the first line you selected was open -- and the last was moving closed  $\ominus$ , then it might look something like:

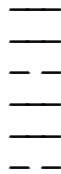


We will start with the near or *primary* hexagram. This hexagram, like all Oracle hexagrams, consists of six lines written from bottom to top. Copy the base hexagram disregarding the moving indicators. In other words, closed and open should be copied as-is. If a line is moving closed  $\ominus$ , copy it as closed —; likewise, if a line is moving open  $\times$ , copy it as open --. Do not forget the moving lines, however, as they will come into play in the interpretation.



Base	→	Near
— — — — — —	→	— — — — — —
- - - - - -	→	- - - - - -
⊖ — — — — —	→	— — — — — —
- ✕ - - - - -	→	- - - - - -

The near hexagram for the example shown above would be:

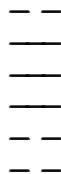


Next, we will make the far or *secondary* hexagram. In some cases, a reading does not have the far hexagram. These relatively uncommon readings are known as *static*. This means there is less change than usual in the situation. If there are no moving lines (moving closed ⊖ or moving open - ✕ -), you can skip making the far hexagram; it does not apply.

Copy the base hexagram with non-moving lines (closed — and open - -) as they are and moving lines (moving closed ⊖ and moving open - ✕ -) changed to the non-moving version of their counterpart. This sounds confusing but is not too hard: If you have a moving closed line ⊖, write it as open - -. If you have a moving open line - ✕ -, write it as closed —.

Base	→	Far
— — — — — —	→	— — — — — —
- - - - - -	→	- - - - - -
⊖ — — — — —	→	- - - - - -
- ✕ - - - - -	→	— — — — — —

The far hexagram for the example shown above would be:



To form the nuclear hexagram, first note that the bottom line is the first and the top line is the sixth. From the near hexagram, select the second, third, fourth, third, fourth, then fifth lines to build the nuclear hexagram. Consider the near hexagram shown above. The first (bottom) line is open -- with the second and third line closed —. The fourth line is open -- and fifth and sixth (top) lines closed —. Build the nuclear hexagram from the bottom to the top, selecting the second, third and fourth (closed —, closed —, and open -- respectively) for the bottom half of the nuclear hexagram. For the top half select the third, fourth, and fifth lines (closed —, open --, and closed — respectively). The topmost and bottommost lines of the near hexagram are not used in constructing the nuclear hexagram. Here is shown the conversion from near hexagram (left) to nuclear hexagram (right) for the example shown above:

#	Near	Nuclear	#
6	—	—	5
5	—	--	4
4	--	—	3
3	—	--	4
2	—	—	3
1	--	—	2

Finally, form the complementary hexagram by inverting each line in the near hexagram. If a line is closed — in the near hexagram, it should be open -- in the complementary hexagram. If a line is open -- in the near hexagram, it should be closed — in the complementary hexagram. The complementary hexagram for the example shown above would be:

--  
--  
—  
--  
--  
—

Once you have constructed the four (or, in some cases, three) hexagrams, you can look up the hexagram number for each one. Look in the table at the beginning of Chapter 3 to determine the hexagram number. The hexagram numbers for the example we just did are shown here:

Near	Far	Nuclear	Complementary
— —	— —	— —	— —
— —	— —	— —	— —
— —	— —	— —	— —
— —	— —	— —	— —
— —	— —	— —	— —
— —	— —	— —	— —
— —	— —	— —	— —
— —	— —	— —	— —
57	31	38	51

Now I will describe two methods for acquiring the lines.

## Method of Sixteen

The method of sixteen is my preferred method. For this method you will need sixteen small objects of similar shape and size. Two good ideas are marbles (you will need four colors) or flat stones (from a nearby river or lake). It is important that, although the items may be visually distinct, they should feel the same.

If using marbles, choose seven marbles of one color (e.g. black) to represent open — —. Choose five of another color (e.g. white) to represent closed — —. Choose three of another color (e.g. red) to represent moving closed — ⊕ —. Finally, select one marble of a unique color (e.g. blue) to represent moving open — × —. The significance of the counts and the probabilities they entail is discussed in Chapter 2.

If using flat stones, use a permanent marker to draw the open symbol — — on seven of them. On five of them mark the closed symbol — —. On three mark the moving closed symbol — ⊕ —. Finally, mark one stone with the moving open symbol — × —.

Place all marbles or stones in a bag. For each line, close your eyes, reach your hand into the bag and shuffle the pieces. Run them through your fingers until you feel “drawn” to one of them. Select this piece out of the bag. Open your eyes, and write down the corresponding symbol, then place the piece back in the bag. Using the marble colors above, for example, if you drew a red marble, you would write down moving closed — ⊕ —.

## Method of Four

The method of four may be easier because it does not require marbles or stones. Instead, it simply uses four coins: three of one type and one of another. For example, three dimes and a penny works fine.

Toss all four coins at once. If the unique coin (in this example, the penny) is heads, the line will be closed (maybe or maybe not moving). If the unique coin is tails, the line will be open (again, maybe or maybe not moving). Once you have determined this, count the total number of heads among all four coins. If it is precisely three, then the line is moving. Otherwise, the line is not moving.

For example, imagine you throw the coins and the penny lands on heads, the dimes on heads, tails, and heads. In this case, the line would be closed (since the penny is on heads), and the total number of heads is three, so the line would be moving. Therefore, you would have moving closed  $\ominus$ .

## 3 The Interpretation

Choosing a good question is not too difficult, and is a skill which you will certainly improve upon quickly with practice. Receiving the answer is a spiritual and mechanical operation, but not a difficult one. The interpretation, however, is the where the true head-scratching can come into play.

The near hexagram describes the situation as it currently is, or as it will be if you proceed with the choice you are asking about. The moving lines (moving closed  $\ominus$  and moving open  $\rightarrow$ ) describe additional advice or aspects of the situation, and shows influences that lead the situation to change into that represented by the far hexagram. The far hexagram describes what the situation is likely to become if you follow the course of action specified by the near hexagram and moving lines, or in some cases, if you fail to heed warnings given. The distinction is usually made clear by the moving lines.

If your answer has no moving lines, then it also has no far hexagram (or, more correctly, the far hexagram is the same as the near). This is called a *static* answer. A static answer means that the situation is unlikely

to change significantly beyond that described by the near hexagram. It can also mean that the Oracle cannot yet see or is not ready to disclose what lies beyond the near hexagram. It can also simply mean that the situation is fully summarized by the near hexagram, and another hexagram would only distract you from its advice.

The nuclear hexagram describes a hidden force, motivation, or possibility within the situation or within your question itself. It can indicate the core driver of the situation which is not now, and may never be, visible. The nuclear hexagram can represent a wide variety of minor things the Oracle wishes to bring to your attention; maybe something which prompted the question or something you will need to work on while following the advice. The nuclear hexagram may describe an opportunity, warning, or something that may or may not manifest in time.

The complementary hexagram describes what the situation is *not*, or what course of action you *should not* take.

The near and far hexagrams together form the *primary reading*; that is, the main advice the Oracle wishes to give. The moving lines (except those marked as significant with a star ★), the nuclear, and the complementary hexagram together form the *supporting reading*, which offers clarification on the primary reading. However, messages from the nuclear and complementary should in particular not be considered to override the message of the near or far hexagram.

Each hexagram is described in a page in Chapter 3. You can use the table of contents or just thumb through to find the hexagram you want. The first thing to do is to match the hexagram shown on the page to the one you wrote on your paper. This ensures that you did not make any mistakes determining the number. I have on several occasions skipped this step, only to find a reading that seemed nonsensical. I looked back and realized the hexagram shown was not the same as I had written down; I was interpreting a red herring.

Each hexagram contains four parts: a name, a *judgement* or advice, an *insight*, and a description of the moving lines. The name summarizes the message of the hexagram and is often a useful tool for distilling a quick interpretation. The judgement is the central meaning of the hexagram. It is shown immediately below the hexagram. The context of the judgement

depends on which position (near, far, nuclear, or complementary) the hexagram resides in, as well as the details of your question. The words and images I use in this text are in many cases simplifications of the broad images painted with the original text and commentary. Do not be constrained by narrow words; look for how the concept shown broadly fits your question.

The insight is shown in italics to the right of the hexagram. The insight derives from the image in the original text, which took the hexagram as a visual image describing the situation or offering advice. The insight and the judgement together form the text of the hexagram.

If you are interpreting the near hexagram (and only then), you should also match the moving lines to receive additional guidance. The moving lines describe extra advice, influences of change, or describe additional aspects of the situation. Only consider those moving lines which are moving in your base hexagram. If one of the moving lines is marked with a star ★, you should consider it especially significant. Moving lines are not used when interpreting far, nuclear, or complementary hexagrams. They are also not used in static answers.

It is important not to lose sight of your original question when doing interpretation. Always apply what you are reading to the question. In some cases, the application or meaning is not clear. It is okay to say “*I do not know*”. In some cases, aspects of the answer will not be clear until after the fact, and even then some answers are more clear than others. In addition, not every part of the text may apply to your situation. The Oracle can only present you with a text; it is your job to determine how to apply it.

## 4 Two Example Dialogues

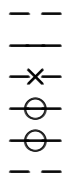
In order to show the process of forming a question, receiving an answer, and interpreting it, I have chosen two of my actual dialogues to discuss here. Since these dialogues were both done some time ago, I have the benefit of hindsight in discussing the interpretation and how things actually turned out. I have removed the names to protect privacy.

## A Relationship

I met an interesting woman and went on several dates with her. She was very unique and I was, frankly, uncertain as to whether or not I should try to build a relationship with her or let it go. I decided to ask the Oracle:

*Should I pursue a relationship with [name]?*

I first selected an open --, then two moving closed  $\ominus$ , then a moving open  $\times$ , a closed —, and finally an open --. This formed the base hexagram:



I then determined the near, far, nuclear, and complementary hexagrams.

Near	Far	Nuclear	Complementary
--	--	—	—
—	—	--	--
--	—	—	—
—	--	--	--
—	--	—	--
--	--	—	—
48	45	38	21

The near hexagram, which describes the immediate answer or relevant point to my question is number 48, *Foundations*. This hexagram (you may wish to look it up yourself in Chapter 3) advised me to pay attention to fundamental human nature and not to the outward adornments. At the time, this did not make the answer immediately clear (although, in retrospect, the reason I was attracted to this woman was that, outwardly, she seemed unique).

Next, I looked to the moving lines to add more detail. The second, third, and fourth lines are moving (recall that lines are counted from the bottom). The second indicates that I have potential but am not using it. The third indicates that I should ask a trusted confidant for advice. The fourth is

probably the most telling; it suggests taking time away from attempting to start a relationship to first improve myself. As it turns out, this was very good advice. At the time, I had come out of a bad relationship and was confused about what I really wanted and needed.

But before we finish the story, let us look to the far hexagram, number 45, *Gathering Together*. By itself, this suggests that as a strong figure, I would be successful in a relationship. At the time, I was anything but strong. Since this was the far hexagram, it suggests not an immediate course of action but something that would happen down the road, after the advice of the moving lines was fulfilled. As it turns out, after spending time to improve myself, and becoming stronger and more stable, I met a different woman that I have a much better connection with.

The nuclear hexagram, number 38, *Divergence*, clarifies the original intent that the woman I was dating at the time was not right for me. This hexagram suggests that a significant, fundamental incompatibility lay between us. Although it had not yet become apparent, it ultimately prevented us from ever having a serious relationship.

The complementary hexagram, number 21, *Cutting through Obstacles*, described what was *not* going to happen. The hexagram describes a situation with visible opposition that can be solved quickly. Our situation was precisely the opposite: it was not at all clear what, if anything, was the problem, and ultimately, no solution (besides ending the relationship) existed.

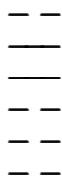
## A Friend and the Oracle

This second example dialogue is quite different from the first. It also shows what I consider to be a more difficult interpretation. In this case, a close friend of mine was interested in starting with the Oracle. He already had a number of practices, and wanted to know if he should add consulting the Oracle.

*For [name]: Should he try the Oracle for his divinations?*

In this case, I first selected three open -- lines, then two closed —, and finally one open -- You may notice (as I immediately did) that there are no moving lines present. This is a static situation.





I then determined the near, nuclear, and complementary hexagrams. Since there were no moving lines, there was no far hexagram.

Near	Nuclear	Complementary
— —	—	—
—	—	— —
—	— —	— —
— —	—	—
— —	— —	—
— —	— —	—
45	53	26

Another interesting facet is that the near hexagram in this dialogue, number 45, *Gathering Together*, is the same as the far hexagram in the previous example. Through experience, you will see that the same hexagram can say radically different things depending on the position and the question involved. This is why it is important to always keep in the mind the question while interpreting the answer.

The meaning of the near hexagram was not immediately apparent with respect to the question. So my friend should bring people together and ask those he trusts? He trusted, and asked, me and in turn I asked the Oracle. It also says that new endeavors will be successful, so I took this, if not entirely clear, as at least a generally positive response. Since the situation was static, I consulted none of the moving lines. In the insight, there is also a gem about preparing to prevent conflict. This seemed to temper the generally positive outlook with the possibility that things may not be easy.

To help clarify the interpretation so far, I looked next to the nuclear hexagram, number 53, *Gradual Progress*. Suddenly everything seemed clear: My friend could and should use the Oracle, but not expect immediately blinding flashes of insight. This is good advice for anyone considering trying the Oracle for the first time. If he stuck it out and continued using it, he would gain understanding and grow to appreciate it. This is exactly

what happened. Although the first dialogues were very difficult, over time he has become more and more proficient.

Just to make sure I had the right idea, I then turned to the complementary hexagram, number 26,  *Holding Firm* . This one seems a little strange as a complementary hexagram. The hexagram says to stay true to your ideals and bring learning and application together. However, the fundamental concept here is standing in a particular place, with particular ideas. Turns out that my friend had a lot of preconceived notions which caused difficulty in understanding the Oracle. Once he was able to let those go, and accept the Oracle as it was, he became much more proficient in using it.

The friend in question has now used the Oracle for several years and finds it a useful part of his various practices. His proficiency came in part from many consultations with me when difficult answers arose. Thus, both the predictions of gathering together and gradual progress were vindicated, as well as the complementary hexagram of holding firm as he stopped imposing his view on what the Oracle was and thereby gained more benefit from it.

## 2

# THE ANCIENT ROOT

The Oracle descends from a tradition thousands of years old. But it did not come from heaven, so to speak, intact in its modern form. Instead, the Oracle developed and grew through civilizations and time. The foundation of the Oracle goes beyond the hexagrams to the nature and structure of the lines themselves.

Long before the hexagrams existed, ancient Chinese peoples burned bones and turtle shells. These would then crack, and the pattern of cracks would be interpreted by a diviner. These patterns were the first indication of line-based divination. Of course, there was no reference text and no way for an ordinary person to perform such divination. Only those skilled in the art and trained through oral transmission were able to interpret these signs.

## 1 Open and Closed

Ancient Chinese philosophy was based on the concepts of *yin* and *yang*. Yin was the receptive, weaker, feminine force; yang, by contrast, was the strong, creative, male force. In our western view, we often like to rank things as being better or worse; but yin and yang were considered best when balanced. Neither one was more or less important, better or worse, than the other.

These fundamental ideas are the basis for the two types of lines used in the Oracle. Closed lines — represent the yang principle, while open lines – – represent the yin principle. Disregarding the moving indicators, these lines are equally likely to be selected, a reflection of the importance of the balance of yin and yang in the universe.

## Moving Lines

In addition to the plain yin and yang lines, the Oracle also allows moving lines. A moving line is also called an *old* line. In Chinese philosophy, things that became old did not simply disappear (for example, at death) but were reborn in a different way. Thus, an old yang line  $\ominus$  will be reborn in the far hexagram as a yin line  $-$ , while an old yin line  $\otimes$  will be reborn as a yang line  $—$ .

Whereas the probabilities of selecting an open or closed line are overall equal, the probability of selecting a moving open versus a moving closed are most definitely not. In methods based on the original probabilities (such as the ones shown in this text), the probability of selecting a moving open line  $\otimes$  is merely one in sixteen, whereas the probability of selecting a moving closed line  $\ominus$  is three in sixteen. What could this mean?

Since yin and yang are overall equally likely, a yin line is more likely compared to a yang line to be stable. This means that the yang lines, which represent strong, creative, and active aspects are also less stable and more likely to change. A yin line, however, which represents a more passive and receptive approach also has more stability.

Over time, things naturally slide into disorder and break down unless they are actively maintained. This occurs in relationships as well; a strong relationship only exists through the active effort of all members. It is easy for a relationship to break down, but to build it up again is more difficult. This is also reflected in the moving lines; that strength more easily turns to weakness. Only rarely does weakness become strength.

Does this mean the universe is fundamentally negative? No. It does mean, however, that your choices are important and significant; you must choose to maintain and build accomplishments and relationships. They will not build themselves. In fact, left alone, they will fall apart into nothingness.

## 2 The Four Elements

If we combine two yin/yang lines, we get a total of four possibilities. These four reflect the fundamental four elements present in so many early spiri-

tual systems. They also represent the four foundational aspects of personality and behavior.

— —      **Air**

Two closed, yang lines represent air, or heaven. This is the strong aspect doubled, represents total control, creativity, and authority. This is the origin from which all things come.

— —      **Earth**

By contrast, two open, yin lines represent earth. Earth is seen as silent, receptive, and stable. Heaven and earth are not in conflict, they are complementary; each one has its place and performs its function.

— —      **Water**

Water is represented by heaven above earth, the natural order of things. Earth brings up water toward heaven as lakes, oceans and rivers; heaven likewise brings water down toward earth as rain and snow. Water exists at the junction between heaven and earth. Water also represents everything that is difficult to see; water is deep and dark, and its depths are unknown. Water includes an aspect of unknown dangers. It can take many forms: a soothing shower, or a rushing rapid. Water therefore is not constrained to build or destroy, to help or to hurt; it may take on any of these forms.

— —      **Fire**

The power of heaven is brought down to earth, and the substance of earth is sent up to heaven. This inversion is represented by fire. The earth element (wood) is burned and sent up as smoke to heaven. Likewise, the power of heaven is brought down and contained by earth as flame. Un-

like water, which takes many forms and is always present, fire takes only larger or smaller versions of itself and appears only when people create it or, rarely, when heaven sends it (as in lightning). Fire, like water, can be creative or destructive. It can bring light to difficult situations, uncover new meaning; but it can also destroy what people have so carefully built.

### 3 The Eight Ways

Adding a third line, we come to eight possibilities. These eight, called the eight *trigrams*, were invented or discovered by a sage named Fu Hsi, who became the first emperor of China around 2850 BCE. According to legend, Fu Hsi saw the eight trigrams in the lines on cracked turtle shells, and made these eight the center of divination. This was the beginning of the *I Ching* as we know it. He also invented the first method by which ordinary people could consult the Oracle: a complex method of drawing sticks known (and still in use) today as the *yarrow stick* method.

#### The Yarrow Stick Method

The yarrow stick method requires fifty sticks of roughly equal length. They should be long enough to handle easily. Yarrow sticks were originally made from a roughly fifteen inch section of the dried stem of the yarrow plant, an herb. Fifty uncooked strands of spaghetti work well if you handle them gently. You can also purchase sets of “yarrow sticks” of various composition.

1. First, take up the fifty sticks in one hand. Select one and set it aside. The remaining forty-nine sticks will be used to construct each of the six lines of the hexagram, one at a time. Gather the remaining sticks in the left hand.
2. Split the group randomly into two groups with your thumb. Place the two groups separately in front of you. Select one stick from the right pile and set it aside.
3. Taking up the left pile, count out four sticks at a time, until four or fewer sticks remain in your hand. Set the remaining sticks aside.

4. Repeat this procedure with the right group. Now you should have a pile of counted sticks and a set aside pile.
5. Pick up the pile of counted sticks, and with it repeat steps 2 through 4.
6. Take the pile of counted sticks, and count out four sticks at a time, this time into *separate piles*, until four or fewer sticks remain in your hand. Set the remaining sticks aside.
7. You should now have a sizable set aside pile and between six and nine piles of four in front of you. If there are six piles of four, this means the line is moving open  $\rightarrow\times-$ . If there are seven piles of four, this means the line is closed  $\text{---}$ . If there are eight piles of four, this means the line is open  $--$ , and if there are nine piles this means the line is moving closed  $\ominus$ .

6  $\rightarrow\times-$

7  $\text{---}$

8  $--$

9  $\ominus$

8. Whew! Now, gather up all 49 sticks (excluding the one originally set aside in step 1) and do steps 2 through 7 again for five more lines.

As you can imagine, this method takes quite a bit of time, and it is easy to make a mistake. However, some people like this method as it requires one to be calm and not rushed when asking a question.

## The Eight Trigrams

In addition to assigning a basic meaning to each of the eight trigrams, Fu Hsi also assigned an animal, part of the body, and member of the family.

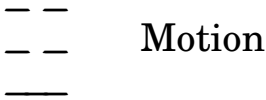
$\text{---}$   
 $\text{---}$   
 $\text{---}$       Creative

The creative is the fundamental representation of energy and strength. It

represents motion and power at the highest level. This trigram represents the horse as an animal, the father as a family member, and the head as part of the body.



The receptive is the open, yielding, stable complement to the creative. The receptive is feminine, represented by the mother in the family; one who bears life, who is gentle, nurturing and kind. This trigram also represents the ox as an animal and the stomach or womb as part of the body.



This trigram, also called thunder, represents a display of energy and power, a shock, something terrifying but productive. It puts people and things into motion and brings about new growth. The animal represented is the dragon, the body part the foot and the family member the oldest son.



The gentle represents a subtle influence which seems to submit to everything because it meets no resistance. In this way, it is just as powerful as externally strong action like thunder. This trigram represents fowls as the animal, the oldest daughter as the family member, and the thigh as the body part.



— —  
 — —  
 — —

## Abyss

The trigram of water now brings forth the darker meaner suggested earlier. It represents struggle and danger, a commitment which cannot be abandoned but also cannot be lightly completed. The animal is the pig, the body part the ear, and the family member the middle son.

— —  
 — —  
 — —

## Bright

This trigram represents fire and brightness. As previously the darkness was accentuated, here the light is accentuated. The fire brings warmth and illumination. It represents understanding, sight and intelligence. The animal is the pheasant, the body part the eye, and the family member the middle daughter.

— —  
 — —  
 — —

## Still

This trigram, representing the mountain, describes stillness. It has much potential strength, but this is not yet grown into accomplishment. Thus it represents the youngest son, and also the means by which accomplishment will occur, the hand. The animal it represents is the dog.

— —  
 — —  
 — —

## Joy

The youngest daughter is represented here as a joyful fountain of happiness. This trigram represents social interaction and celebration. The body

part is the mouth and the animal, the sheep.

## 4 The Sixty-Four Hexagrams

Fu Hsi, who devised the trigrams, also was the first to stack two trigrams on top of each other to create the hexagrams. Various sequences, orderings, and interpretations of the hexagrams were created before Wen of Zhou, who was a political prisoner about a thousand years after Fu Hsi, spent his time in prison re-ordering and re-interpreting the hexagrams. His sequence, known as the King Wen sequence, is the same sequence used today and in this text.

King Wen (so-named by his son, although Wen never actually ruled) also wrote down the judgements for each hexagram which carry forward to this day. The meaning of each hexagram is based on the image, which forms from the two trigrams. For example, placing the trigram for gentle over the trigram for creative yields hexagram 9, *Gentle Influence*. By contrast, placing the trigram abyss on top of the trigram gentle forms hexagram 48, *Foundations*. This comes from the combination of the dark and difficult to see depths of the abyss and the gentle yet pervasive influence of the gentle. A deeper meaning of each hexagram can often be gained by breaking it into its two component trigrams.

Wen's son, Wu, overthrew the ruling powers and freed Wen from prison. Wu's brother, Tan, expanded on his father's work, adding the moving lines and giving them their individual meaning. The entire text, by then titled *I Ching* or *Classic of Changes*, was composed of the hexagram judgements by Wen and the moving lines descriptions by Tan. This text served as a foundation for the Zhou dynasty for nearly one thousand years.

During the Zhou dynasty, Confucius wrote a large commentary on the *I Ching* called the *Ten Wings*. Some of Confucius' commentary filtered into the text, especially regarding the meaning of the moving lines and the position in the situation and in society that each individual line represented.

Each line describes the progression of the situation which needs work to be resolved. At the bottom, the line described a condition before any work begins. The second line describes the early work on a situation. The third line represents being fully "in the thicket". The fourth line repre-

sents gaining a handle on the situation. The fifth line represents completing the work. The top line represents that the work has been done and the situation resolved.

Each position also represents an individual out of the greater society, in order of class. The bottom line represents a beggar, or a child; someone with little influence or power. The second line represents a father or head of household. The head of household has some power and authority, but only in a small scope. The third line represents an official — either of the government or some important organization. The official wields power over the head of household as his employer, and also represents the power of law enforcement. The fourth line represents the prince. The prince holds a position of authority over a wide range of people. He or she also has the ability to create and define policy, rather than just enforce it as the official does. The prince includes high government lawmakers as well as upper management in organizations. The fifth line is the emperor. The emperor had supreme authority over all the land. The decisions of the emperor could not be challenged nor were they limited. The top line stands for the sage. The sage is someone who has put aside the cares of the world to pursue a spiritual life. In ancient China, the emperor consulted with and took advice from the sage, while the sage remained unaffected by the emperor's commands. Thus the sage is shown above the emperor.













Combining the two views shows an interesting perspective on the lines. The lower lines tend to be “not ready yet” or “prepare” advice. The middle lines tend to be advice for the action or situation in progress. The highest lines assume the situation is nearly completed, or has been completed. Many of the warnings associated with the top line come from the view of premature or overly extreme separation. The sage, having completed his task, is in one way separated by the world, but remains present to advise and assist.

Completed by Confucius' commentary, the text of the Oracle has reminded essentially unchanged for the last twenty-five hundred years.



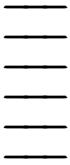
## **3** THE HEXAGRAMS

You can determine the number of a given hexagram using the chart on the following pages. Match the top three lines across the top of the pages and the bottom three down the side to find out the hexagram number. The interpretation of each hexagram and its lines are given sequentially following the chart.

		Top			
					
Bottom		1	34	5	26
		25	51	3	27
		6	40	29	4
		33	62	39	52
		12	16	8	23
		44	32	48	18
		13	55	63	22
		10	54	60	41

Top					
☯	☰	☱	☷		
11	9	14	43	☰	
24	42	21	17	☱	
7	59	64	47	☱	
15	53	56	31	☱	Bottom
2	20	35	45	☱	
46	57	50	28	☱	
36	37	30	49	☱	
19	61	38	58	☱	

# 1 Energy



*Make use of the time you have with untiring creativity and strength.*

Move forward with confidence! Success comes through leadership, creativity, strength, and time. Be watchful, never tiring, and do the right thing when the time comes.

*If all lines are moving, this means exceptional opportunity and good fortune.*

## Moving Lines



Patience. The time for action has not arrived. Wait for things to come together. The time will come, however, and then push forward with all your might.



Observe and emulate role models; they will guide your actions.



Passions and worries are out of balance. Make time for both work and home. Maintain your integrity and control your ambition.



A true choice: improve the world or improve yourself. By acting with integrity, you will find the correct way.



★ You will attain great success and influence.



Ambition and success lead to arrogance and corruption. If not corrected, all that you have built will be destroyed.



## 2 Devotion

-- --  
 -- --  
 -- --  
 -- --  
 -- --  
 -- --

*Enlarge your heart to fairly treat both the loved and the hated.*

Achievement comes through following a dedicated leader. To forge ahead blindly, or seek to lead, invites failure.

*If all lines are moving, this means endurance and long-suffering will bring about what is right.*

### Moving Lines

-- --  
 -- --  
 -- --  
 -- --  
 --x--

Watch for signs of decay, and take precautions to prevent failure.

-- --  
 -- --  
 -- --  
 --x--  
 -- --

★ Set aside intentions and purpose; merely follow the path that appears naturally.

-- --  
 -- --  
 --x--  
 -- --  
 -- --

Drop vanity and develop yourself in secret. Leave fame to others, and push your work to completion.

-- --  
 -- --  
 --x--  
 -- --  
 -- --

Tell no more than is necessary. If you reveal yourself, you provoke your enemies and startle your friends.

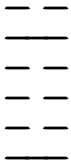
-- --  
 -- --  
 --x--  
 -- --  
 -- --

Discretion is essential. Your position depends on others, therefore do not boast of yourself.

-- --  
 -- --  
 --x--  
 -- --  
 -- --

Conflict between leaders and followers. Rising above your position, you start wars that will cause loss for all parties.

### 3 Passing Through Chaos



*Seek out the order hidden in the chaos and untangle confusions.*

Premature actions lead to failure. Work together with friends to overcome obstacles and achieve success.

#### Moving Lines



★ Obstacles are not solved by brute force. Consider carefully the path you will take. With humility, accept help as needed.



Unexpected offers create a crisis of conscience. Be wary of accepting obligations. In time, issues will resolve.



When failure is apparent, it is better to stand down rather than pursue a hopeless wish which will only bring humiliation.



Opportunity appears and must be seized. Take the first step to ask for assistance.

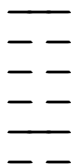


★ Too much, too quickly brings failure. Move forward one step at a time, building first the foundation.



Collapse and failure. Do not be stuck in mourning loss.

## 4 Naïve Uncertainty



*Deal thoroughly with every matter to avoid unseen trouble.*

Going forward without guidance brings danger of failure. Seek out a guide to show you the way to avoid obstacles. Listen and accept what you are told; repeated questioning only brings annoyance.

*Do not ask the Oracle this same question again.*

### Moving Lines



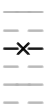
Be disciplined and serious, but not to the point of losing your self.



★ Only once you have both the strength to deal with the foolish and the cunning to convince detractors will you be able to succeed.



Attempting to improve yourself by imitating and serving successful people leads only to humiliation.



Wrapped up in fantasies, you have lost touch with reality. Let it go.



★ Lay aside arrogance and accept instruction honestly and gratefully.



Restore order with careful reprimands and corrections. Do not act out of anger.

## 5 Waiting for a Breakthrough



*Prepare for the future with strength and confidence.*

It is useless to merely hope, but not yet the time to act. Have great patience with confidence. The time will come for you to face the future. Prepare yourself now to make difficult decisions later.

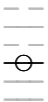
### Moving Lines



Trouble is far away, and things remain simple. Do not yet expend energy on premature preparations.



Disagreements and gossip reveal unsettling situations. Diffuse blame with calm and rational words.



Trying to move too quickly, you have become stuck. Disaster closes in from all sides. Do not underestimate the situation.



Too late to act. You are trapped. There is no way out but to accept things as they come.

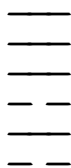


★ Even in the midst of conflict, it is important to have times of rest and relaxation with good company.



When the situation appears hopeless, an outsider intervenes. Do not refuse them, as they offer you a way out of trouble.

## 6 Conflict



*Carefully consider the possible sources of trouble in every new endeavor.*

You are opposed by others, yet you seek sincerely. Meet them halfway, and be willing to make compromises. Allow arbitration by trusted neutral parties. Do not attempt to fight this conflict to the bitter end. Avoid stirring up new problems until this one is resolved.

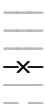
### Moving Lines



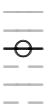
Your disagreement is with a stronger figure. Best just to drop it.



You cannot win. Retreat, let the matter go.



Possessions and titles may be lost. Hold tightly onto your own good name and integrity. They cannot be taken away.



Although you could win, the resolution you desire is not just. Trust your conscience and change your mind.

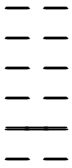


★ Stand up for yourself before judges and inquiries.



Briefly you appear to win, but then your success crumbles and is lost. Conflict resumes even more intensely.

## 7 Hidden Potential



*Treat other with kindness and respect; then when the time comes they will stand with you.*

Bring together leadership and charisma to create a strong organization. Attempting to build unity through force is futile.

### Moving Lines



Make clear a mission and structure, lest your organization crumble.



★ Be close to your team, not separate. When honor comes, you will rightly receive what you deserve.



Others wish to usurp leadership. Build trust carefully to prevent confusion and loss.



Against an insurmountable obstacle, better to change direction rather than destroy the team in a fruitless struggle.

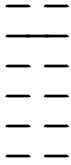


★ Act quickly with urgency and preciseness. Each person wants to do their own thing, but this will result in failure. Maintain control.



After accomplishment, many will seek to share in the gains. Do not carry on with those who would weaken the organization.

## 8 Coming and Staying Together



*When each person has a true interest and feels important, unity is strong.*

Join together with others in a common purpose. If you are at first uncertain, you may later come aboard. If you come too late, however, you feel like an outsider. If you seek to bring many together, consider first if you have the strength and endurance for it. *You may ask the Oracle about this.*

### Moving Lines



Be sincere and strong. Avoid clever words or empty promises.



Do not run from person to person seeking a relationship. Let things progress naturally.



Your relationships are weak because they are with the wrong people. Avoid fake intimacy.



When a relationship is well established, show attachment openly. Still, be cautious that you do not stray.



★ Seek neither to draw nor push away. If someone comes, let them in. If someone leaves, let them go. Those who are meant will come of their own free will.



Mistakes at the beginning means things will not turn out well. Do not miss the right opportunity.

## 9 Gentle Influence



*When efforts yield little result, focus on improving your approach.*

Your influence over the situation is small. Now is not the time for sweeping measures and bold action. Prepare, and meanwhile offer friendly persuasion to bring about a more favorable condition. Success is on the horizon, but still there are obstacles to surmount.

### Moving Lines



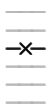
Do not force any approach. Instead, when encountering obstacles, try a different way.



When others wisely decide to wait or try a different path, follow them instead of forging ahead alone.



Although an easy victory is expected, use of force will result in your own failure.



★ Act sincerely and honestly. Have truth on your side.



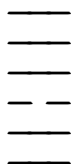
★ Share with those you trust. This yields great rewards.



With success, rest. Do not try to continue pushing forward, or all will be lost.



## 10 Mixing Weak and Strong



*Judge others based on their inner character, not outer appearance.*

Dealing with dangerous or temperamental situations requires delicacy, especially as you are in the weaker position. The situation is inherently unstable, but with modesty and self-control, even a normally aggressive foe will come around.

### Moving Lines



Behave simply without making demands. Do your own work and make progress.



Avoid entanglements and maintain a steady course.



★ Charging ahead recklessly invites failure. Do not push your luck.



Undertaking a dangerous enterprise will succeed when done with caution and inner strength.



★ Be aware of the situation and its dangers. Move forward cautiously.



Your actions will determine the outcome. Weigh them carefully.

## 11 Harmony



*Make wise use of the time and resources available to you.*

Balance and peace. Disruptive elements are fading and constructive forces arising. Success and good fortune.

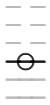
### Moving Lines



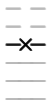
People rise to the occasion and bring more than expected.



★ Everything and everyone can be helpful. Do not deny them. Take on dangerous tasks with confidence. Pay attention to both details and the big picture. Avoid forming cliques.



Good fortune and peace will not last forever. Enjoy the good fortune while you have it.



Great and small working together. Do not boast.

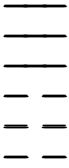


★ Each person fills their own role with modesty, bringing happiness and success.



Discord strikes. Attempting to fight brings humiliation. Stay close to trusted friends.

## 12 Decline



*Avoid taking part in ill-gotten gains.*

Great people are replaced with lesser ones. Confusion and disorder prevail. Stay true to yourself even if all hope seems lost.

### Moving Lines



Retire from troublesome organizations and keep true friends close.



★ Standing up for your principles causes discomfort, but do not be swayed.



Lesser leaders see their shortcomings; they are secretly ashamed.



Order can be restored by one truly able. An arrogant person would merely set themselves up for failure.

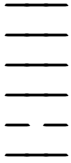


★ A new leader rises to restore order. Success comes only through caution.



Decline is reversed through the efforts of good people.

## 13 Fellowship



*Strong organization and purpose turns mere gatherings into fellowships.*

People join together openly to pursue similar interests. Such a group can confidently undertake even dangerous tasks if led with strength and clarity.

### Moving Lines



Equality within the fellowship. Avoid secret agreements.



★ Petty factions threaten to destroy the fellowship. This leads to humiliation.



Distrust fills the fellowship. Each one holds a secret, not trusting others with it.



A trying time brings the fellowship closer together. Reach out to others.

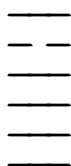


★ Although together in heart, circumstances force people apart. In the future they come together again in great joy.



The fellowship lacks strong bonds, but is unified in cause.

## 14 Wealth



*Use your vast resources to bring about good things.*

Expressing your abilities in a modest way brings success. Express authority gracefully and with restraint. Good fortune.

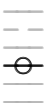
### Moving Lines



Avoid arrogance and wastefulness. Remain aware of possible trouble.



Responsible people join together. Major undertakings can be accomplished.



Greed leads to destruction, but generosity brings good fortune.



Many powerful people around. Avoid the temptation for petty competition.



★ Sincerity and dignity wins the hearts of many.



Even at the top of the world, remain humble and help others.

## 15 Modesty



*Subdue extremes of high and low to ease discontent and establish order.*

Modesty enables promotion and retention of higher positions, but arrogance results in loss. Complete the tasks needed without boasting.

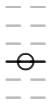
### Moving Lines



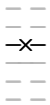
Settle difficult matters quickly. Avoid many demands or requirements.



A heart filled with modesty is visible to all. Good fortune.



★ Accomplishments bring praise. If you then boast, your work is lost. Complete things with modesty.



Have true interest in your work. Do not betray the trust of superiors, or hide the accomplishments of others in an attempt to promote yourself.

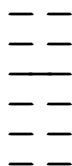


Modesty is not weakness. Take direct and appropriate action to correct trouble, without subjective or personal bias.



Publicly admit your mistakes and accept the penalties. This earns trust from many. Avoid passing the blame.

## 16 Enthusiasm



*Joyful expression brings about enthusiasm and honor.*

Meet others on their terms and they will join with you readily. Take on such assistants. Avoid arbitrary rules and requirements, as these bring resentment.

### Moving Lines



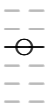
Be enthusiastic without boasting.



Do not be swept up by popular opinion. If pursuits are empty, walk away.



Join whole-heartedly into the fray. Hesitate, and all is lost.



★ Self-confidence and sincerity draws people naturally to your cause. Great accomplishments are possible.

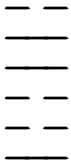


Many obstacles and obstructions await, but hold on to your enthusiasm and things will turn out well in the end.



You have followed the wrong cause and misplaced your enthusiasm. Nevertheless, you can still correct your path.

## 17 Leading Servant



*Adapt yourself to whatever the situation requires.*

To lead, you must first serve. Others will then be drawn naturally to you. If you attempt to coerce, force, or deceive them, they will shy away and you will fail. Ask only when the time is right, and good things will come. Leave time for rest.

### Moving Lines



★ Listen to the views of all people openly and responsively. Do not, however, compromise your principles.



You must choose between good company and bad. You cannot have both.



Avoid being drawn in by fads or con men. Stay firm with good company.



Temper your ego, lest you be moved by the false flattery of those who would use you.



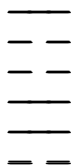
★ Follow that which is good with sincerity and conviction.



When a true student appears, take the time to teach them.



## 18 Rebuilding



*Stir up desire first, then strength, then rebuild what has been lost.*

Things have decayed and fallen, but can be repaired. Plan carefully before beginning any task. Be willing to accept hard work and danger. Apply decisiveness and energy to avoid a relapse. With all of this, you will achieve great things.

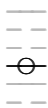
### Moving Lines



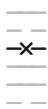
Rigid following of rules results in feeling dehumanized. The situation is unstable but still salvageable.



Weakness results in decay. Proceed gently. Avoid drastic action.



Too much, too quickly. Some corrections fix more than is broken. In the end, more good than bad comes of it.



Decay appears, but you are too weak or scared to combat it. This brings only humiliation and failure.

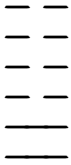


★ You are unable to rebuild by yourself, but others will help. With them, you can bring about good improvements.



Do not try to fix everything. Leave what is broken beyond repair to focus on a worthy cause.

## 19 Progress



*Protect, care for, and teach others now so they are ready in the future.*

For the time being, conditions are perfect for progress and success. Do not delay, however, for things will become less favorable down the road.

### Moving Lines



★ Join together with others of ability doing what is right.



★ Have inner strength and integrity. Know that everything changes, but still proceed with your work.



With gain comes the danger of complacency and slack. This brings about downfall and failure. If you regret your mistakes and correct them, you will again succeed.



Avoid prejudice and you will have success.

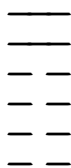


Seek out experts and then let them work unobstructed. This will bring success.



Reach out to others and be willing to lend a helping hand.

## 20 Attention



*The greatest person fully understands the nature of humanity and lives with unshakable integrity.*

Give careful attention to important things. Model your behavior accordingly. Doing so, many will look up to you and trust you.

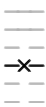
### Moving Lines



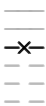
Although you observe, you do not understand. Do not be content with shallow understanding; seek deeper knowledge.



Your understanding is limited. You relate everything to yourself, but cannot see from others' point of view. Such narrow view results in harm and loss.



Being objective and rational allows you to correctly decide when to proceed and when to hold back.



When you find someone who has deep understanding, honor them. Do not try to manipulate them.

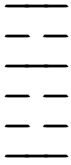


★ Actively examine the results of your actions. In this way you can correct mistakes and bring success.



★ Pay attention to everything around you, and learn how to perfectly fit into it.

## 21 Cutting through Obstacles



*Make rules clear and enforce them fairly.*

Opposition comes from within and without. Quickly and vigorously remove obstacles and opposition before they become a real problem. Do not use excessive force, but neither be weak.

### Moving Lines



Do not be too harsh against accidents or first-time offenses.



Anger can lead to an over-zealous response.



You lack the authority to correct the problem, but no one else will act. Acting is good in the long run, but brings short-term trouble.



Many difficulties lay ahead. Be strong and unyielding and you will meet with success.

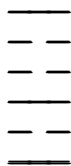


★ Approach conflict impartially and fairly. Do not be biased by your own tendencies or the pleas of others.



You are ignoring warnings. This path leads to failure.

## 22 Decorating



*Beauty is merely skin deep. Do not base important decisions on it.*

Beautify things by adding decoration and creating a pleasant appearance. Decorations are nothing of themselves, however, so remember that the important thing is the integrity beneath the decorations, not the decorations themselves.

### Moving Lines



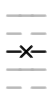
Avoid false adornment. Present yourself as you really are.



★ Do not care only for the decoration while the insides rot.



Do not be swept up in revelry, even when surrounded by beauty.



You must choose between adornment and simplicity. A true friend encourages you. Short term disappointments are worth long term gain.

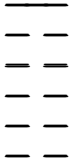


If you are only able to offer meager material gifts, do not feel ashamed. Your gift of sincerity and loyalty is what really matters.



★ The highest beauty comes through simplicity and not excessive ornamentation.

## 23 Collapse



*Generosity creates stability in difficult times.*

Times change and all things built eventually fall. Avoid any new undertakings. You cannot fix what is broken; best to remain quiet and avoid contention.

### Moving Lines



Destruction comes from within; slander and gossip undermine strong institutions.



Stubbornness leads only to destruction. Use caution and blend in.



You find yourself in an organization turned bad. Leave it to avoid tainting yourself.



Disaster affects people personally. Nothing can prevent it.

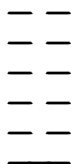


Submit to strong, good leadership to sustain in difficult times.



★ One who takes advantage of bad times to hurt others will fail, but a good person will soon reap rewards.

## 24 Coming Around



*Treat new change tenderly to encourage its growth.*

Renewal and change arise naturally and without force. Do not attempt to hasten anything. Change comes in stages.

### Moving Lines



★ Slight mistakes can be easily corrected. Left unchecked, they can lead to failure.



Put aside pride and help others build good things.



Constantly changing your mind causes you to go nowhere. This is trouble.



There are many people around, let you still feel alone. Seek out a true friend.



Look within yourself and find mistakes and faults. Confess them and offer restitution. This brings success and a clear conscience.



Stubbornly holding onto the wrong things, you have missed important opportunities and will suffer greatly.

## 25 Natural Truth



*Care for all things with harmony and wisdom.*

Place aside ulterior motives and follow the guiding of your heart to good things. Reflect carefully, for if you leave what is good, only failure will await you.

### Moving Lines



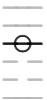
★ Good and constructive behavior brings success.



Do not covet results, merely do the task for its own sake.



Not everyone is innocent. Loss comes, but it is not your fault.



Remain true to yourself and avoid being swayed by petty opinions of others.



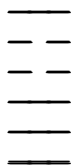
★ Trouble comes from external sources. Do not attempt to fight, just let it pass.



Now is the time for rest. To attempt to act brings only failure.



## 26 Holding Firm



*Learning and application together bring strength and success.*

Stay true to your ideals. Be strong, yet caring and not aggressive. Joining together with other worthy people, you can achieve great things.

### Moving Lines



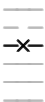
Wait. If you attempt to act now, you will fail.



Do not waste energy now. Wait and prepare for the right opportunity.



Trouble threatens, but by joining with another strong person, you can move forward. Be sure to have a goal clearly in sight.



Avoid trouble by defusing it early. This brings success.

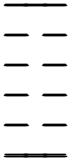


★ Do not attack the symptoms of a problem. Instead, eliminate it at the root.



★ Great achievement brings honor and success.

## 27 Nurturing



*Cultivate yourself through moderation and balance.*

Take care of yourself and worthy others. Some people will waste your gifts and attention, others will use them wisely. Give to the latter. Count a person's character by what aspects of themselves they cherish.

### Moving Lines



You abandoned your base of support to envy richer people. This leads only to humiliation and failure.



You could support yourself, but instead you have let others carry you. This will lead to misfortune.



Do not choose empty pleasures and rewards, but seek to build yourself a strong foundation. Otherwise, you will ultimately attain nothing.



Aggressively find helpful people and work together for the benefit of many.

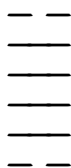


★ Be aware of your own weaknesses. Fix yourself first before trying to help others. Avoid large undertakings.



★ Much responsibility falls on your shoulders. Be aware of possible trouble, but also be willing to take risks and undertake great things. This brings success to many.

## 28 Excess



*When overwhelmed, do merely what must be done and set aside that which is not required.*

You cannot handle all that is demanded of you. Quickly find a way to decrease your load. If you do so, you will find success. If you try to carry everything, you will only fail.

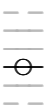
### Moving Lines



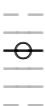
Before starting any new endeavor, consider it very carefully and use caution.



★ Think outside the box and accept unusual approaches. This brings success.



Others have offered advice and help, but you ignore them. You cannot do it alone. If you continue trying to, you will fail.



★ Assistance comes and everything can be done. However, if you abuse this situation for your own personal gain, you will receive only humiliation.

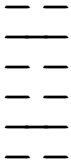


Even if you work to exhaustion, you will not fix the situation.



The situation is out of control. If you proceed with courage, you will still be defeated, but in doing so will be honored for making a valiant attempt.

## 29 Many Difficulties



*Approach difficult times with consistency and strength of character.*

Do not avoid difficult situations. You must learn instead to deal with them. Remain sincere, give your best effort, and learn from your mistakes. In this way you will achieve success.

### Moving Lines



Surrounded by trouble for so long, you have become accustomed to it. From this, you cause trouble to others and bring misfortune.



★ Avoid large undertakings. Attempt only small gains until the situation has stabilized.



Every course of action only leads to more problems. Wait patiently until a clear resolution can be seen.



In difficult times, honest work is more important than pomp and ceremony. Simply be yourself and help others.

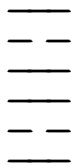


★ Too much ambition brings trouble. Be content with taking an easy road and putting an end to trouble.



Confusion and trouble overwhelm you. It will take a long time to escape. Many misfortunes will happen.

## 30 Quiet Strength



*Build up good things to benefit many.*

Find a source of clarity and happiness and hang on to it. Do not attempt aggressive approaches, but instead simply understand the situation. This brings success.

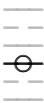
### Moving Lines



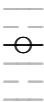
Avoid being swept up in hustle and bustle. Maintain concentration and awareness.



★ Bring balance and moderation to each situation.



Some celebrate, others mourn. Instead, improve yourself in the time you have.



If you come on too strongly, you will burn out before achieving long term success.

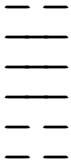


★ A change of heart brings sadness. If you are well prepared, you will still have good fortune.



Cut off trouble at the root. Remove people who cause problems, but do not blame those enamored by them.

## 31 Relationships



*Humility and listening are critical to good fortune.*

People come together through natural attraction. Show consideration and care for others to build strong, long-term relationships.

### Moving Lines



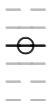
An idea has formed, but you have not yet acted. Nothing will happen until you do.



Acting suddenly without cause brings misfortune. Wait until there is a good reason.



Do not chase every person that catches your fancy. Likewise, avoid following blindly those who show an interest in you. Think first, then act if appropriate.



★ Do not attempt to manipulate or control others. Be consistent and stable, and appropriate relationships will form naturally.

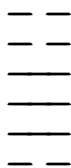


★ Deep conviction leads to firm resolve. Do not be closed to outside ideas.



Empty talk is of little value and does not further any cause.

## 32 Dedication



*Be flexible and open, yet never compromise your commitments.*

Continue forward with resolve; all obstacles can be overcome. Do not stagnate, and certainly do not give up. If you persevere, you will succeed.

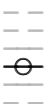
### Moving Lines



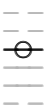
Too many demands lead to failure. Avoid premature commitment.



★ You are not as strong as you think. Avoid excess, however, and there will be no cause for blame.



Do not be inconsistent and moody. If people cannot rely on you, you will meet with humiliation and disgrace.



You are looking in the wrong places, and thus not finding what you desire.

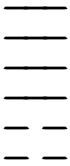


If you are a leader, you must be willing to break with tradition to lead. But if you answer to another, be flexible to their requests.



Constantly rushing from thing to thing, your lack of rest and calm will be your undoing.

### 33 Retreat



*Keep your distance from troubles without anger or malice.*

Conditions are poor and you must back down. However, do not simply abandon what you have accomplished, nor give it up to others. Wait and prepare for a time when you can reclaim your ground. Only minor endeavors should be attempted.

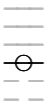
#### Moving Lines



★ You have retreated too late and nearly fallen into the clutches of disaster. Avoid starting anything new.



Stay true to your purpose and vision.



Stuck between a rock and a hard place; this is a dangerous and stressful situation. It is helpful to have assistance.



Retreat willingly and without malice. The only failures will be those who have nothing to show for themselves.



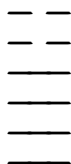
★ A perfectly timed retreat can occur without conflict. But if conflict does arise, maintain firmness and do not be swayed by shallow arguments.



A clear path to follow brings happiness.



## 34 Strength and Justice



*Work within the established order to bring about great things with harmony.*

You have much potential in front of you, but avoid wielding it as arbitrary force. By ensuring that the time is right and that fundamental principles are being served, you can accomplish great things.

### Moving Lines



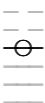
Advancing with force brings misfortune.



When success begins, do not become cocky and forge ahead recklessly. Patience brings the fulfillment of success.



Avoid boasting or displays of power, as these lead to obstacles and trouble.



★ Real strength is exercised behind the scenes. Such behavior removes obstacles and brings good fortune.

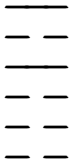


Do not be stubborn or argumentative. Obstacles fall away and success comes naturally.



You are stuck, unable to proceed or retreat. Just wait with patience and the situation will resolve.

## 35 Accomplishment



*Purify yourself by clearing away defilements.*

Rapid progress occurs naturally and easily. Bring others together with clarity and generosity and much will be accomplished.

### Moving Lines



Although there is pressure for progress, it is not clear if the time is right. Move ahead gently. If you are turned down, remain calm and avoid anger.



When separated from others, remain steadfast. If you act out of principle and not greed you will come back together and attain success.



Although you cannot personally win every battle, you are supported by many, and together you will all attain success.



Avoid gathering up rewards and treasure for yourself at the expense of others. This will be brought to light and you will suffer humiliation.

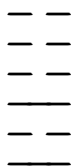


★ Do not focus on gain and loss, but work on starting new endeavors and creating opportunity. This brings good fortune.



Aggressive action should be used only when necessary. Be aware of the trouble this can cause. Continuing aggressiveness will end in humiliation.

## 36 Fall from Grace



*Neither join with nor censure fools, simply let them be.*

Unfavorable circumstances arise. Do not be swept up in them. Instead, maintain a quiet, inner light while being outwardly yielding and flexible. Be cautious about with whom you consort.

### Moving Lines



Large endeavors fail. You will be battered around, pushed to the limit. You will suffer because of your principles, and people will speak against you. Have a goal to work toward, but expect little progress.



★ You will be hindered, but set it aside to first assist those in need. If you act honorably, good fortune will come.



A stroke of apparent good luck. Do not expect too much, or assume more will come.



Disaster is imminent. There is no way to avert it, you can only distance yourself from it.



★ You are trapped in a difficult situation. Do not attempt to escape, instead nourish your spirit and use caution until the time has passed.



Corrupt institutions collapse. An opportunity for progress arises.

## 37 The Family



*Act and deed must go together, otherwise words become empty.*

When relationships are functioning well and people act in their proper roles, then things will go well. Strong families build a strong society.

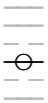
### Moving Lines



Apply rules early and consistently. Remorse may arise, but will then fall away. Lack of discipline would cause many more problems down the road.



★ Do not seek to impose your will by force. Instead, limit your scope to the duties at hand and perform them well.



Be watchful that discipline is neither too strict nor too lax. If there is no work ethic, there will be humiliation.



Good fortune arises from careful balancing of resources and expenses. If you are a good steward, much good fortune will come.

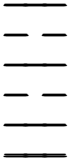


★ A strong and gentle character inspires trust and builds strength. Use your influence wisely.



When in a position of authority, do not delay in assuming responsibility. If you are respectable, everyone you lead will follow your example.

## 38 Divergence



*Although drawn in many directions, maintain your own individuality.*

Differing viewpoints and methods make large undertakings inadvisable. Small matters may still be accomplished. Attain harmony by integrating all approaches into a cohesive whole.

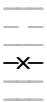
### Moving Lines



Do not attempt to end conflict with force. Those who really care will return to you themselves, and those who do not will eventually leave.



★ Although you cannot solve the problem in the usual way, unusual circumstances may provide opportunities.



You feel attacked and opposed at every turn, and suffer many losses. If you stay the course, it will turn around and end well.



When surrounded by strangers, seek out someone with the same values and place trust in them. Although this is a risk, it will turn out for the better.

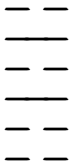


★ You meet an honorable person, but do not recognize this. In time, you will realize who it is, and then you should meet with them.



Surrounded by friends, you perceive them as enemies and distance yourself from them. Set aside your distrust and rejoin your friends. This brings good fortune.

## 39 Obstacles



*Do not blame others for your own shortfalls.*

The way ahead is blocked. Although it may feel like you are losing ground, it can be helpful to hold back for a while. With the help of others, you will be able to pass the obstacle and in the process will learn much.

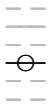
### Moving Lines



Do not strive to blindly push forward; instead, wisely consider the best course of action. Delaying until the right moment brings success.



You are bound to go forward into danger. Do not regret the choices that led to this.



If you put yourself in danger, how will those who depend on you succeed? Return to them and they will welcome you.



You cannot go forward alone. Gather together with others to tackle the problem.

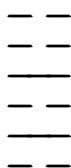


★ In the middle of a dire emergency, others will be drawn to assist you. With good organization and co-operation, even this great obstacle can be conquered.



When obstacles come, you may be tempted to just ignore them. However, you should go to meet them, join with others, and assist. This brings good fortune.

## 40 Resolution



*Forgive unintentional mistakes and do not dwell on transgressions.*

Problems are being resolved. Return as possible to normal conditions. Do not attempt to push further than necessary. Instead, quickly attend to any remaining matters.

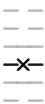
### Moving Lines



Obstacles have passed; now rest peacefully.



★ Devote yourself to a straight and honorable course of removing those who exert improper influence.



Do not be overly extravagant. Excess ornaments are an invitation to disgrace.



In difficult times, many people come together. Now that the trouble has ended, focus your association on trustworthy and honorable companions.

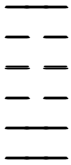


★ Firmly break from troublemakers. Only then will they finally leave you alone.



Trouble in positions of authority. Good fortune comes from exposing and removing it.

## 41 Scarcity



*Still your anger and restrain rash action.*

Available resources decrease. If you attempt to continue elaborate displays, you will fail. Scale back, approach things with simplicity. Inner strength must compensate for outer poverty. This will bring success.

### Moving Lines



It is good to help others in moderation, but do not give yourself entirely. Likewise, be careful how much you accept from others as to not impoverish them.



Serve others without stretching yourself thin. Avoid new endeavors.



★ Companions will come naturally if you lead by example.



Turn away from your faults and others will be more inclined to assist you.



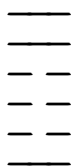
★ A true helper will come and greatly assist you. Ignore harsh or negative words from others. Good fortune.



Use your windfalls to benefit others, and many will experience good fortune. Do not be discouraged.



## 42 Growth



*Imitate the good and rid yourself of faults.*

A time of harmony is upon you. If you are willing to give up excess to help those in need, great things can be accomplished. With proper planning, engage even difficult and dangerous undertakings. Good fortune and success will follow. However, do not dally because this harmony will not last forever.

### Moving Lines



With strong integrity, you can accomplish great things.  
Good fortune.



★ As long as you do not become arrogant about your good fortune, it will continue to increase.



Unfortunate events will come, but with the proper attitude they will enrich you.



When distributing the gains of good fortune, do so honestly and with regard for those who need it most. Exercise good influence on those above you.

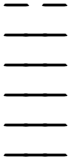


★ Do not ask for recognition. Simply act out of purity and you will be recognized in time. Good fortune.



Your greed has not gone unnoticed. Disrespect leads to misfortune and loss.

## 43 Breakthrough



*Act generously and avoid relying on your reputation.*

Struggle and danger surround you. The possibility for a breakthrough exists. Do not attempt to use force. Instead, make trouble well known to all whom it concerns. Speak honestly and fortify good things. This brings success.

### Moving Lines



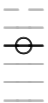
Weigh your ability against every task. Attempting something beyond your means brings failure.



Be aware and ready at all times. This brings security.



You are caught in an awkward situation. Neither betray your friends nor participate in their troublemaking. Regardless, you will be blamed by others. All you can do is remain true to yourself.



You suffer from restlessness and the wish to impose your will on the situation. This will not happen, however, so you should simply let it go.

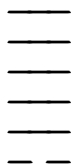


★ The struggle appears hopeless, but do not give up. Stay the course and do not allow others to discourage you.



At the end, when accomplishment seems sure, is when the most danger waits. Avoid becoming complacent or careless.

## 44 Ulterior Motives



*Even when far away, watch over your responsibilities.*

Someone who appears innocent and harmless will try to gain your trust. Do not underestimate people. Act promptly to avoid allowing dishonest people into a position of power or trust.

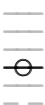
### Moving Lines



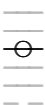
A dishonest person is already gaining influence. Act immediately or misfortune will follow.



★ Keep dishonest people away from what they seek, and no harm will come.



Recognizing the dishonest element, you will be invited to join. This brings danger and indecision. If you stay true, however, you will avoid loss.



An overly aggressive response invokes counter-attacks. Trouble is at hand.

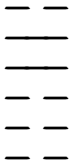


★ Guide troublemakers and demonstrate your strength of character. This causes them to reconsider and improve their lives.



Pride brings humiliation. If this does not bother you, then it is fine.

## 45 Gathering Together



*Be aware and prepared to prevent conflict and strife.*

People gather together naturally when a strong leader is present. Make appropriate sacrifices and instill a common goal in those that look up to you. Likewise, go to those you trust and listen to their wisdom. In this way, new endeavors will be successful and good fortune will follow.

### Moving Lines



If you do not follow through on your words, there will be confusion. Ask for help if you need it; this will quickly restore confidence and good fortune.



Follow the leadings of your heart. If you are sincere, even a small contribution to the group will be truly appreciated.



Trying to join a well established group can be difficult. Become friends with the leader, and you will find your way. Being a newcomer can be awkward, but this will pass in time.



★ Do not set up your own goals, but work tirelessly for what you have been asked to do. This brings great good fortune and success.

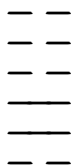


★ Some people who gather around you do so to gain only influence. Gain their confidence by devotion to your task.



Your attempt to build an alliance fails due to misunderstanding. Do not be concerned, for it will work out in the end.

## 46 Gaining Influence



*Build up small things to achieve something great.*

Present yourself to those in positions of authority who can help you. Do not be afraid. Show yourself to be modest and adaptable. This will bring success and good fortune.

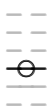
### Moving Lines



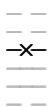
Although you are currently not recognized, you share a similar mindset to those in power. Have confidence and move forward.



You do not seem to fit in, but do not focus on this. If you act honestly and with integrity, you will be recognized for who you really are.



Progress is remarkably easy, without the usual obstacles. However, such a perfect situation will not last forever. Take advantage of it while you have it.



A great person offers you a high position. This brings success and good fortune.

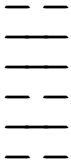


★ Do not become cocky with your success. Remain humble and do not try to skip important steps or goals. Calm, steady progress will alone lead to success.



Be careful that your work is not blind impulse. Instead, be mindful of what you seek and how you plan to accomplish it.

## 47 Adversity



*When everything turns against you, rely on your integrity.*

Difficult times bring exhaustion. You should maintain a strong inner light to guide you through these times; a weak person will simply fail. If you attempt to state your case, you will not be believed. Therefore, wait until the time is right to resume your efforts. Then you may attain success.

### Moving Lines



Trouble threatens to overwhelm you. If you are not strong in your heart, you will be filled with depression, and this will only make the situation worse.



★ Although things appear fine, internally you are exhausted. A change of pace will be offered by an interesting person. However, the offer brings obstacles and, without proper planning, misfortune.



You are confused; feeling oppressed by something not intended to oppress and leaning on what cannot support you. Those close to you draw away. Misfortune.



A weak and small attempt to step out of your zone of comfort brings obstacles and embarrassment. However, these can be overcome and your goal reached.

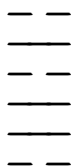


★ You are oppressed on all sides, and no help comes from those who would normally assist you. Rest on your inner strength and in time the situation will slowly improve.



The troubles surrounding you are now very weak; you can easily break free. Your fear of them is unfounded.

## 48 Foundations



*Encourage people to do good work and help one another.*

Although outer structure changes over time, the foundations of life do not. Whatever outward path you take, make sure you pay attention to the unchanging pattern of human nature. If you ignore it, or refuse to address it in your own development, you will reap only misfortune.

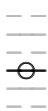
### Moving Lines



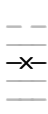
If you debase yourself, you will be of help to no one. Ultimately, no one will come to save you and you will be forgotten.



You have much potential and good character, but you neglect it. If you do not use your strengths, eventually you will pass away without accomplishment.



There is a strong and ready person of good integrity to assist you, if only you would ask. This brings good fortune.



Spend time to improve yourself. Although you will not be much help to others during this time, it is not in vain. Others may attempt to accuse you for this, but do not heed them.

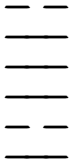


★ Even the best people are useless if not allowed freedom to do their work and help others.



A dependable helper brings good fortune to many.

## 49 Revolution



*Prepare yourself in advance for changing times.*

Dramatic and fundamental change is at hand. Extreme change should be undertaken only when all other means have failed. When the time comes, be bold and you will have success. Stick with it even if the going gets difficult.

### Moving Lines



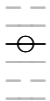
Avoid undertaking dramatic change prematurely. Prepare yourself fully first, and act when the time is right.



The situation requires change, but others will not step up to the plate. Step forward and be the leader of change.



Avoid acting on every complaint, but also do not ignore repeated concerns. When something has come up several times, it is good to act on it.



Changes must be based on integrity and not arbitrary or self-serving motives. Only then will it be successful.



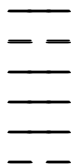
★ Changes are clear and distinct, and your place in them already obvious. Asking the Oracle is not necessary.



People agree to changes, but only on the surface. Do not attempt major changes, as this will lead to dissent and misfortune.



## 50 Plenty



*Bring harmony into relationships to prepare for the future.*

Success and good fortune. Plentiful resources bring stability and order if put to good use.

### Moving Lines



No matter how insignificant you may feel, if you prepare well you can succeed and find a place in the world.



Others are envious of your success. Do not let this distract you, merely focus on your work.



Your abilities are as of yet unnoticed and unused. If you continue to refine yourself, however, the time for your success will come.



You are too weak or too distracted to run a large and important undertaking. If you continue, misfortune will follow.

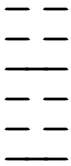


★ Being approachable and modest will allow you to work with all sorts of people. This brings success.



★ Apply good advice gently, and you will succeed at almost anything.

## 51 Shock



*Be aware that everything can change in a moment and prepare yourself.*

Violent and frightening events are at hand. If you are inwardly composed, outward terrors will not shake you.

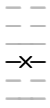
### Moving Lines



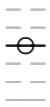
★ At first you will feel lost and afraid. This will pass, however, and the very thing that caused your fear will bring good fortune.



Loss will come upon you. Do not attempt to fight it. Retreat and wait until better times, and your losses will be returned.



Shocked, you feel like giving up. If you are instead spurred to action, you will escape misfortune.



The situation is difficult, with no clear path of action.

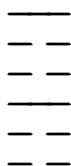


When one trauma seems over, another comes. As you ride out the storm, you will find that loss can be prevented by taking appropriate action.



Strong trauma takes away the ability to think clearly. If you see it coming, try to avoid it even if others deride you for doing so.

## 52 Stillness



*Keep your thoughts focused on the situation at hand.*

Maintain a deep internal calm. Look at the world beyond the petty struggles of individuals and see the possibility of true peace. Acting from this perspective brings no mistakes.

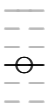
### Moving Lines



If things seem wrong at the beginning, then do not start. It is much harder to make a clean break once you already have commitments.



You are swept up with another who seeks wrong-doing. You can stop and save yourself, but not the other. This brings sadness.



Forced silence does not bring inner calmness. Instead, develop a natural inner composure.



You are approaching true calm, but not yet there. The possibility for mistakes remains, but if you continue to develop your calmness, you will not come to misfortune.



In an awkward situation, it is common to make small talk and jokes. However, this will bring you trouble and regret. If you control your speech, misfortune vanishes.



★ Full and complete calm is attained; good fortune.

## 53 Gradual Progress



*Gradual progress with integrity brings about lasting change.*

Allow things to develop appropriately in their own time. Stick with the situation and see it through. This brings good fortune. To develop lasting results, hasty shortcuts should be avoided.

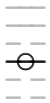
### Moving Lines



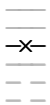
When surrounded by danger, proceed carefully. This allows you to avoid misfortune.



★ Patient work pays off; stability is reached. Share your good fortune with others.



Do not provoke a conflict, or push a matter too far. This brings misfortune. However, if trouble comes to you, then be active in dealing with it.



You are in an inappropriate situation. It may be possible, however, to find a safe abiding even here, and thus avoid misfortune.

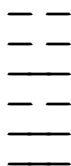


★ Dishonest people inject mistrust into vital relationships. When someone close to you no longer trusts you, nothing can be accomplished. In time, however, mistrust is cleared up and progress resumes.



When a great task is finally accomplished, it stands as an inspiration to others who will follow.

## 54 Tactful Reserve



*Situations and relationships come apart if attention is not given to them.*

Be wary when entering new situations to avoid upsetting existing social roles. Avoid new endeavors of your own devising. Follow those who are in leadership positions.

### Moving Lines



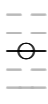
When taken into friendship and confidence of those above you, do not boast or show it outwardly. Instead, remain modest and tactful.



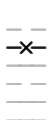
A strong figure has disappointed you. Nevertheless, do not give up hope or faith.



If you long for what you cannot easily attain, you might end up debasing yourself for it.



Approach offers with caution and give them due time for consideration. Even if you wait longer than most, good things will come in the end.

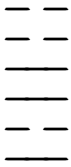


★ Although coming from a high position, you should be ready to accept a new place of less prestige. Do not attempt to rule over your new situation. This brings good fortune.



Just going through the motions, with no dedication to the process or result, brings misfortune.

## 55 Peak



*Investigate everything and apply needed correction without delay.*

A time of abundance and greatness is at hand. You must step up to the plate and take advantage of it, because it passes quickly. Do not be distressed about the fading of abundance. Instead, be joyful and take full advantage of the time you have now.

### Moving Lines



Working together with other strong people is not a mistake; it brings recognition of your abilities.



Political troubles threaten to stop the use of abundance. Show the truth and break through mistrust and dislike.



The resources are present, but many hindrances prevent them from being used.



Obstacles are falling away; come together with other strong people to use the abundance at hand. Good fortune.

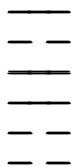


★ Seek counsel from wise and trusted friends. This brings good fortune.



Astounded by abundance, you separate yourself from friends and family, squandering all your resources on yourself. This brings a long time of sadness and misfortune.

## 56 Separation



*Take care of unpleasant matters quickly and do not draw them out.*

A time comes for separation. Go your own way, and expect little support from family and friends. Consider only small endeavors. Guard your integrity and trustworthiness carefully; this brings good fortune.

### Moving Lines



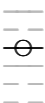
Do not demean yourself to gain friends. This only brings contempt and insult.



Trustworthy friends are acquired by modest yet firm action.



If you treat your friends with aloofness and contempt, you will soon find yourself truly alone.



Although things seem to be going well, be on guard.



★ Use your skills and resources to break the ice with new companions. This brings praise and future opportunities.



If you think you are now free, be careful; if you are careless, you will quickly find that you have still more to lose. This brings misfortune.

## 57 Gentle Action



*Provide consistent direction and preparation to bring about change.*

Establish a clear goal and consult trusted friends. Do not press forward aggressively, but provide a continual, gentle influence. Small successes build something great.

### Moving Lines



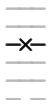
Be decisive, yet gentle. Carry out actions with consistently and discipline.



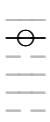
Many hidden obstacles block the path. Seek them out and remove them with diligence.



Once a decision is made, carry it out. Do not stop to second guess yourself; this brings humiliation.



Modesty and action combined lead to great success and many kinds of achievement.



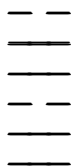
★ Things began poorly, but the opportunity for improvement is upon you. Consider your actions carefully. After implementing them, review their effect to be sure positive change is happening.



Although you can track down obstacles, you do not have the strength to correct them. Attempting to do so brings misfortune.



## 58 Joy



*Gather together with intelligent people to further learning and knowledge.*

A joyful mood lifts spirits and brings success. Be steadfast and friendly, with a good attitude.

### Moving Lines



Good fortune comes from inner content and joy.



★ Be sincere and upright in your joyfulness. Avoid inappropriate celebrations, as these would bring remorse.



Do not attempt to create joy through idle diversion. This brings misfortune.



Heavy decisions to make prevent you from being joyful. Consider carefully and make up your mind, then you will experience joy.

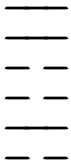


★ Consorting with troublemakers will lead you down a path of destruction.



You have been swept up in the fads of life. You must regain control of your life before you can experience true joy.

## 59 Dissolving Selfishness



*Selfishness and ego divide people and ruin relationships.*

Success comes through gently freeing inner abilities to do their work. If you are concerned about your own prestige, you will not be free to use your abilities to their full potential. If you are willing to work at it, you can succeed at large undertakings.

### Moving Lines



Work hard to overcome divisions before they tear people apart.



If you find yourself alienated from others, nurture good will and avoid anger. This enables relationships to be rebuilt and eliminates remorse.



To accomplish a great task, you must think only of the work to be done, and not of yourself. This is not something to feel bad about.



Avoid petty cliques and conflicts of interest. Rise above politics to accomplish something great for everyone.

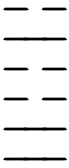


★ Break a stalemate with fresh strategies and ideas.



When danger comes, do not think solely of yourself. Rescue also those close to you.

## 60 Boundaries



*Voluntarily accepted boundaries allow people to flourish.*

Set and observe reasonable boundaries. Success comes through moderation. Excessive boundaries, however, are not productive and should be done away with.

### Moving Lines



When tempted to undertake an endeavor which would violate your boundaries, consider first the outcome. Better to wait until conditions are appropriate.



Boundaries need to be expanded; the time for change has come. If you do not seize it, misfortune comes.



If you always seek to push boundaries, you will simply be frustrated. Realize instead that they exist for your own benefit.



Accept the limitations which you cannot change, and work within their boundaries. This brings success.

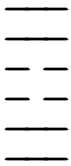


★ Attempting to apply boundaries to others while exempting yourself brings trouble. If you first accept the boundaries, others will follow. This brings good fortune.



The boundaries you set up are too severe. This brings discontent and misfortune. Only in rare circumstances are severe boundaries needed, and then only for a brief time.

## 61 Consideration



*Fully understand individual motives before passing judgement.*

Approach difficult people and situations without prejudice. Careful consider your approach and be willing to adjust it to meet the situation. However, do not sacrifice your principles. Be willing to undertake difficult tasks. Success comes through integrity and flexibility.

### Moving Lines



Be prepared to meet difficult situations. Avoid making secret deals, as these will lead to trouble.



Join together with those of a similar approach to share ideas about a situation.



If you depend on others, you will find yourself tossed about in a whirlwind of emotions.



Pursue your goal without being distracted by politics and bickering.

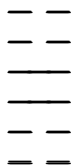


★ Hold things together through your inner strength. If you slacken, things break down.



Words alone do not bring success. If you depend on words without action, misfortune comes.

## 62 Little Things



*Pay attention to duty, live simply, and act modestly.*

Your drive and ambition exceeds your ability. Small undertakings should be attempted, but avoid large ones. Do not attempt to make yourself a star or accomplish the highest goals; be content to accomplish what you can. This brings good fortune and success.

### Moving Lines



Aggressive attempts made too early are bound to fail. Use conventional means whenever possible and save your energy.



★ Act modestly and do not create a stir if your wishes are not granted.



Pride comes before the fall. Be cautious and pay attention to even minor details, otherwise you fall into misfortune.



Extreme caution is needed. Do not start any attempts toward your goal. Be on guard, and wait until the time is right.



★ You are unable to make a difference because you lack assistance. Do not seek out great names or famous people. Instead, seek those who wisely shield themselves from public view.



If you continue to press forward you will meet with misfortune and loss. Take a break and accept small accomplishments.

## 63 Completion



*Prepare for misfortune in advance to avoid meeting it.*

Accomplishments are complete except for the details. The temptation to relax arises, but this brings the seeds of disorder and decay. Success can be maintained through a good ethic and attitude.

### Moving Lines



Avoid being caught up in the moment and pressing forward too far. If you are cautious, great loss can be avoided. You may still find yourself with a small loss, however.



★ Do not grapple to gain recognition from arrogant people. In time, it will come.



Completion brings a new set of challenges. Do not lose sight of your best associates, as they can help you through the times to come.



Weaknesses and failings are easily glossed over and hidden. However, do not be deceived. Hidden weaknesses grow and will represent a serious problem in the future.

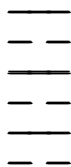


Outward magnificence is no replacement for inner contentment. Small things can bring more happiness than large things.



If you are stuck looking back over what you have accomplished, you will miss the danger that is coming. This brings misfortune.

## 64 Opportunity



*Handle opposing forces and put things in their proper places.*

A time of great opportunity is at hand; bring order out of chaos. However, this is a difficult task, so you must prepare carefully before moving forward. If you proceed rashly, the whole endeavor will fail. If you prepare well, however, great success will come.

### Moving Lines



Enthusiasm brings the temptation to rush into things. If you do, your endeavor will fail and you will be humiliated.



The time for action is not yet; but do not sit around idly. Prepare resources for the coming endeavor.



Attempting to solve major problems alone brings misfortune. Prepare a worthy team and you can take on even large endeavors.



A fierce struggle. Some will want to give up, but this must not happen. Seeing things through to the end brings success and good fortune.



★ Success is won by hard work. Let your accomplishments be known. Good fortune.



Celebration is appropriate in moderation; but if you get distracted from watchfulness, misfortune can slip in without notice.





## ENDNOTE

There are 4,096 different possible answers that the Oracle can give. However, there are an infinite number of situations. The voice of the Oracle speaks beyond the dry words translated by one and worked by another. If you listen carefully, you can hear the Oracle speaking directly.

The hexagrams are not complete. The hexagrams are never complete. Consulting with the Oracle is a journey which lasts for as long as you ask, receive, and act. Keeping a journal of all your questions, answers, and interpretations can be very helpful. To look back and say, “Wow, I thought that hexagram only meant...” or even “I was so concerned about...?” Old answers are just that: old. If a situation has changed, or your view matured, it is certainly wise to ask the Oracle again.

If there is one thing the Oracle can teach you, it is that everything is constantly changing. Every end is also a new beginning. Strength turns to weakness and weakness turns to strength. High drops to low, and low rises to high. That balance, rather than extremes, brings happiness. At the end of all things is not blind fate which drives us like cattle, but rather a vista of choices, opportunities for each person to create their own path and virtuously reach success.

I hope you find the Oracle a valuable companion along the many-faceted paths of life.



